



The City of Lynchburg, Virginia

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lynchburg, Virginia to “STIKE OUT” Home Fires
During Fire Prevention Week, October 7 – 13, 2001**

Lynchburg Fire & EMS Department has teamed up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to “Cover the Bases & Strike Out Fire” during Fire Prevention Week, October 7 – 13, 2001. NFPA’s new public safety campaign brings baseball and fire safety together to teach children and their families simple steps they can take to strike out the risk of home fires.

Cooking, heating, and electrical fires are among the nation’s leading causes of home fires, accounting for an annual average of nearly 50% of home fires and almost one-third of associated fire deaths. Lynchburg faces the same problems. This year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign teaches children and their families about these common fire hazards, and how to “strike them out” in their own homes. Parents and children are encouraged to complete a home fire safety inspection together, putting the campaign’s messages into practice.

Lynchburg Fire & EMS Department plans to increase public awareness of the “Cover the Bases & Strike Out Fire” through school/fire station visits, presentations and safety demonstrations throughout Fire Prevention Week and beyond.

“Protecting your home and family from fire requires a little time and attention,” says Jonathan Wright, Assistant Fire Marshal. “By learning where home fire dangers exist and taking some simple precautions, Lynchburg’s residents can greatly reduce their risk.”

The history of Fire Prevention Week dates back to October 9, 1871. On that date, the Great Chicago Fire swept through the city destroying over 17,400 structures and countless lives. Too often firefighters struggle to face fires that have destroyed property and affected people’s lives. Please help Lynchburg Fire & EMS Department “Cover the Bases & Strike Out Fires.”

On Sunday, October 7, 2001 at 2:00 p.m., the Lynchburg Fire & EMS Department together with the Lynchburg Fire Fighters Association and other local fire and rescue departments will honor those area firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty, as well as FDNY firefighters lost in the attack of September 11, 2001. Members of the public are invited to attend. The event will take place at the Lynchburg Fire Fighters Fountain Miller Park.